

**REMARKS**

Claims 10, 13-15, 18-20, 34, 37, and 38 have been amended. Claims 1-9, 12, 17, 24, 25, 31-33, 36, 39-41, and 49-56 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10, 11, 13-16, 18-23, 26-30, 34, 35, 37, 38 are pending and under consideration. Claims 10, 15, 20, 23 and 34 are the independent claims. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:**

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 10, 15, 34 and 49-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Himeshima et al. (U.S. Publication 2001/0004469).

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 49-56, it is noted that these claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 49-56 is moot.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 10, it is noted that claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 12, and claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding the rejection of dependent claim 15, it is noted that claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of claim 10 and the allowable subject matter of claim 17. Accordingly claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 34, it is noted that claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 36, and claim 36 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly claim 34 is in condition for allowance.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 3, 11, 16 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Himeshima et al. (U.S. Publication 2001/0004469) in view of Nakagawara et al. (JP 2002-060927).

Regarding the rejection of claim 3, it is noted that this claim has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 3 is moot.

Regarding the rejection of claim 11, it is noted that claim 11 depends from independent claim 10, and as noted above claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable, at least, because of its dependency from claim 10.

Regarding the rejection of claim 16, it is noted that claim 16 depends from now independent claim 15, and as noted above claim 15 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 16 is allowable, at least, because of its dependency from claim 15.

Regarding the rejection of claim 35, it is noted that claim 35 depends from independent claim 34, and as noted above claim 34 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claim 35 is allowable, at least, because of its dependency from claim 34.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

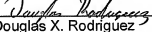
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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